GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:508
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received encouraging response from the Technology Development Board in regard to the Research and Development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;

(c) the amount sought / allocated during the current financial year for the R&D projects;

(d) the steps taken to ensure the best possible use of the available funds to encourage research and development in the priority sectors;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase allocation for the further research and development projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 508 DUE ANSWER ON 28.8.2001 REGARDING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Government of India constituted the Technology Development Board in September, 1996 under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995 to promote development and commercialisation of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for wider application.

The Board provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan or equity to research and development driven entrepreneurial initiatives. The Board has received an extremely encouraging response to its initiatives. Since its inception, it has concluded 87 agreements with 68 industrial concerns and 3 agencies till 31st March 2001. These 87 projects involve a total investment of Rs.988.47 crore, out of which the Board has agreed to provide, in instalments, a sum of Rs. 358.08 crore as financial assistance. The Board has already disbursed Rs. 254.09 crore until 31st March 2001.

The amount allocated to the Board during the current financial year 2001-02, is Rs. 63 crore as against Rs. 100 crore projected by it.

The Board has been successful in supporting the commercialisation of technological innovation in diverse sectors - health and medical, engineering, chemicals, transport, agriculture, waste utilisation, etc. In order to encourage commercialisation, it has taken a number of steps including organising interactive meetings, seminars and workshops with industry, potential entrepreneurs and technology providers through industry associations, R&D organisations and academic institutions. The Board has been participating in exhibitions.

The Board has been progressively increasing its financial assistance over the years and future allocations will depend on the basis of the projected requirements.